

PICTUREMAKER

Mashonaland Photographic Society

April —September 2022 - Issue 4



WINNER SET SUBJECT SEPTEMBER 2022 'Action Attraction'

Bridget Henderson with 'Classic London'

Welcome to our combined edition of Picturemaker.

A feast of images from 6 months of Competitions await inside for you to evaluate and in many cases aspire to.

New Members have added a strong and fresh element to our Monthly submissions.

You as the Reader / Photographer will be entertained by differing takes on commonplace scenes.

IN THIS ISSUE

Chris's Comment

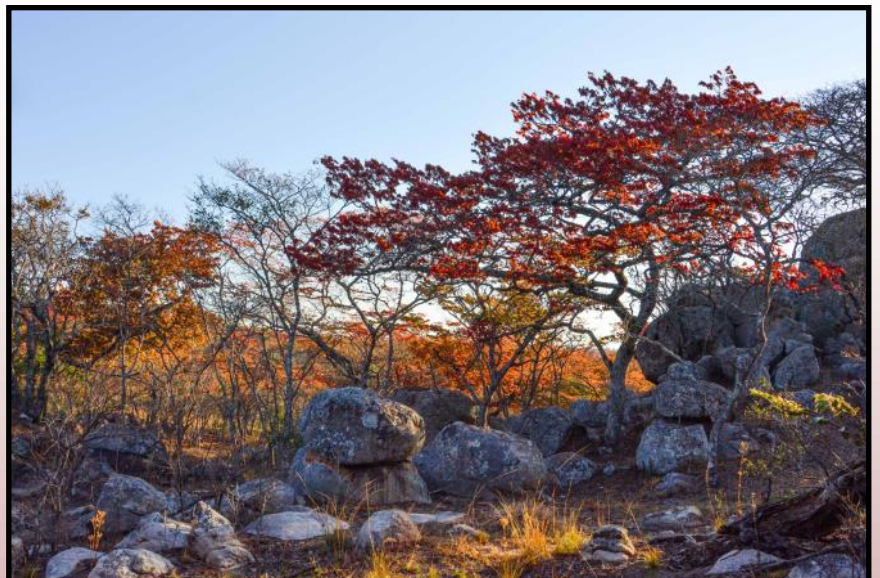
Nige's Viewfinder

Winning Images

*2022 Set Subjects
& Deadlines*

Set Subject Inspiration

Interclub Challenge



WINNER - 'OPEN' CATEGORY SEPTEMBER 2022

Catriona Borman with 'Msasa Study'

MONTHLY MEETINGS
WEDNESDAY - Time:
5.30pm Venue: Meditation
Centre
6A Borrowdale Lane,
Across from B'dale Trauma Centre

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 5.30pm on
October 26, 2022

To review 'Open' &
'Product
Advertisement'

NEXT COMPETITION
NOV 2022

Entry Deadline
MON, 7th
November, 2022
"Focus Stacking"

Call Nige by 5pm on Deadline
Day if you haven't received his
confirmation of entries
received.

Landline (0242) 884222
or 0772 309 841

MPS COMMITTEE 2021

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Nettie Rogers * Andy Roberts
Dave Dell * Chris Collyer

Editor's Comment - September 2022

In this Catch-up issue I have had the chance to have an overview of the images we as a Society submit each month.



I continue to be elated and proud at the same time at the quality and innovativeness that is displayed in these pages.

We are so lucky that we are able to have sight of another Photographer's work.

"Work" is a poor word to describe how a person imbues an image with such emotion that long after looking at it we still remember it, probably making several (repeated) comments about it to friends.

Our Set Subjects are there to increase our Photographic repertoire. Those of us who like the elephant under an Albida Tree at Mana Pools can apply that same skill set to something like "Forced Perspectives"



A lot harder than one would think and we have to think outside the box to stay within the parameters and still be in contention for top honours.

To this end we need to start making plans for the coming year's Set Subjects. 2023 may well be a make or break time for our little Society which is kept alive by a small dedicated group of people.

Historically MPS had various levels from Beginner to Intermediate right up to Honours. We decided to take a picture as a picture and judge it accordingly reducing the opportunity of learners to be recognized on the Winners Page.

Possibly this has deterred potential membership?

If anyone has ideas or the commitment to be involved in changing the way we operate please let someone on the Committee know.



As a visual platform the Society has much to offer even those who use only a Cell-phone. Better pictures come with practice and Social Media thrives on imagery so there is a fertile ground for aspiring Photographers.

Left—Chris Collyer uses a Macro Lens to photograph a spider exoskeleton. Image taken with an Iphone 13 Pro



From the President's Viewfinder - September 2022

And now! After the discussion at last Wednesday's photo evening I found myself reflecting on where we are with photography today and how it relates to our own particular photographic passions. Yes, I admit to being biased towards Canon cameras and it has been my preferred brand throughout my photographic life, even more so since going digital. Notwithstanding this, I accept that all other brands are equally popular and photographically capable and one must select for one's own particular reasons and requirements. Read on.

Dave's facilitating of the discussion on Wednesday was essentially to be around lenses and the choice of same but somehow we veered off to talk about mirrorless camera bodies and more exactly the new Canon R3. Not a problem – what is one without the other? What an awesome machine. Mirrorless, hence a lighter and smaller body, lightning fast auto focus, an incredible frame rate, body image stabilisation and an ISO rating that goes off the clock! Flash? What flash? It takes pictures in the dark with minimal noise! A technological beauty, admittedly with a price to match and yes, Nikon, Sony, Fuji and Olympus / Panasonic produce equally capable models. To match the capabilities of his new toy, Dave showed and demonstrated his choice/selection of lenses from the smallest and cheapest (an EF 50mm) to an 800mm. There are of course even larger should your requirements demand and you have sufficiently deep pockets. So there you have it: adequate resolution, extremely quick auto focus, really high frame rates with image stabilised lenses and body which means telephoto shake free hand held shots are achievable. Birders and sports nuts will be in their element!

Are we surprised then, when having read all the advertising blurb that beginner's feel that one of the above is the absolute necessity to achieving good pictures. To confirm what we all know and possibly learnt the hard way, it's not what you hold in your hand but what you are capable of seeing when you look through the viewfinder of your particular model which defines the photographer that you will ultimately become. I think that my short talk on Wednesday illustrated these two points perfectly.

Vintage lens photography is the new 'in' as regards You Tubers and it's a way of maximising the use of your new digital body, whether it be mirrorless or DSLR, with the vintage lens of your choice, ie, Canon, Nikon, Olympus, Zeiss, Tamron, Etc. The list is endless. These lenses may be old, some of mine are fifty years plus, but are superb glass with unique features.

What I enjoy about experimenting with this new hobby is that it's all manual and takes one back to one's roots, forcing you to think photographically. No limitless ISO, no auto aperture settings, shutter speed of your choice, no continuous shots, manual zoom and the biggest challenge of all – no auto focus! Made me wonder how I ever got an in-focus picture of my rugby-playing mad son making the match winning tackle on the opposite side of the field handholding a 300mm lens! We did, even then. Give it a go. Adapters are really cheap and readily available for all different body / lens combinations. You'll be smitten.

On Society matters. Apologies all round that we appear to have been relatively quiet during our emergence from Covid, and as such attendances at our photo evenings have been very small, always with the faithful few in support. Picture entries in the monthly competitions hover between 24 and 36 but for the Interclub we are lucky to enter 9 at most. What's missing to improve on these? Your input would be most appreciated along with any suggestions for training or outings for the members. It is regrettable that the results from the August Interclub were aborted after a system issue meant that similarly titled entries could not be identified and the scoresheet became totally jumbled. Hopefully the final round in October, with the set subject title of "Glasses" will see the problem resolved.

After seeing the monthly production of Picturemaker for longer than I can remember, Chris Sheppard has decided that it's time to handover the reins to someone else so December will see his final issue. A big thank you to him for what has been a fantastic monthly read, commented on favourably by all. If you feel up to the challenge of taking over, and yes, it is time demanding, let me know. Failing which we will possibly revert to having a monthly newsletter for the results and club news items.

Meanwhile, get out there with whatever kit is your fancy and capture those winning pictures,

Nige

MPS 2022 SET SUBJECTS

OCTOBER — Entry Deadline: Monday, 3rd October

‘PRODUCT ADVERTISEMENT’

Present an image in the form of an ad, ranging from still life to Product/Pack shots or holidays. Sell it to us!
In Colour or B/W. No Manipulation.

NOVEMBER — Entry Deadline: Monday, 7th November

‘FOCUS STACKING’

Get your Macro/Close-ups or Landscapes perfectly in focus throughout. Hopefully a training session in Sept.
In Colour or B/W. Manipulation allowed.

Email your entries to mpsphotos@hotmail.com to ensure they're received by no later than 12 noon on the Deadline Dates indicated above.

WINNERS—APRIL 2022



SET SUBJECT

'Reflections'

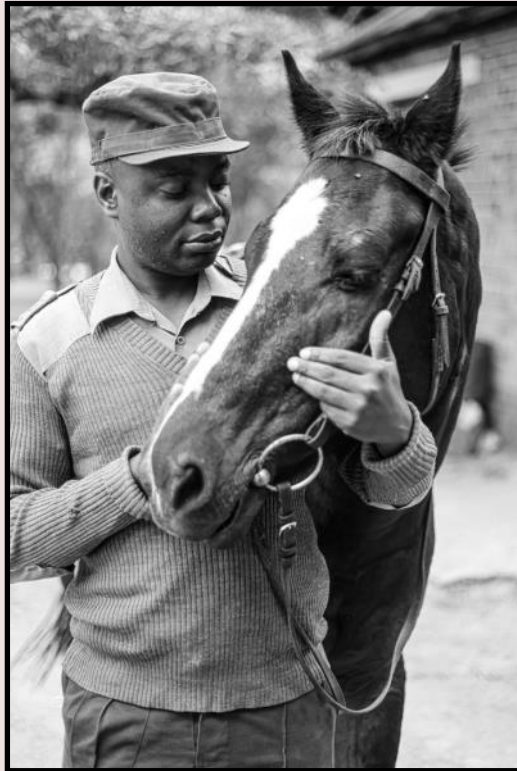
"Thirsty" by Bridget Henderson



OPEN

"Feeling Grumpy" by Caroline Dean

WINNERS—MAY 2022



SET SUBJECT—President's Platter 'Nifty Fifty'

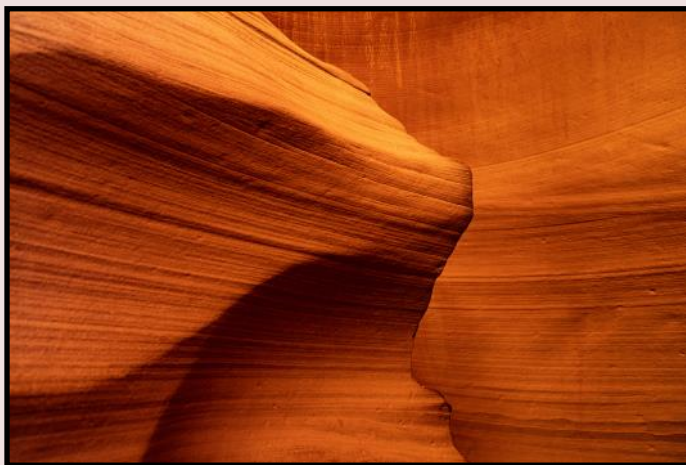
"ZRP Affection" by Bridget Henderson



WINNER—Best Picture 2021

"Kingfisher at Sunset" by Sheelah Crause

WINNERS—JUNE 2022



SET SUBJECT

‘Lines and Curves’

***Tie with “Scarified” by Chris Collyer and
“Antelope Canyon, AZ” by Bridget Henderson***



OPEN

“Untitled 4” by Nettie Rogers

WINNERS—JULY 2022



SET SUBJECT

‘Night—Clear Skies or Busy Streets’

“Kariba 2021” by Bridget Henderson



OPEN

“Fishing” by Chris Sheppard

WINNERS—AUGUST 2022



SET SUBJECT
'Forced Perspectives'



OPEN
"Protecting our Future" by Bridget Henderson

SET SUBJECT INSPIRATION - NOVEMBER 2022

'Focus Stacking'

Get your Macro/Close-ups or Landscapes perfectly in focus throughout. Hopefully a training session in Sept. In Colour or B/W. Manipulation allowed.

This subject will test most of us as we tackle a technical challenge that requires some camera skill as well as the ability (and access to) to Focus Stacking Software.

However, we are not faint hearted and will try anything!

In simple terms "Focal Stacking" is a way of negotiating a camera's inability to catch a whole scene 100% in focus by taking a series of images with the focal point in different places on the said subject.

There are ways of doing this and simplest one I could find is to do the following:

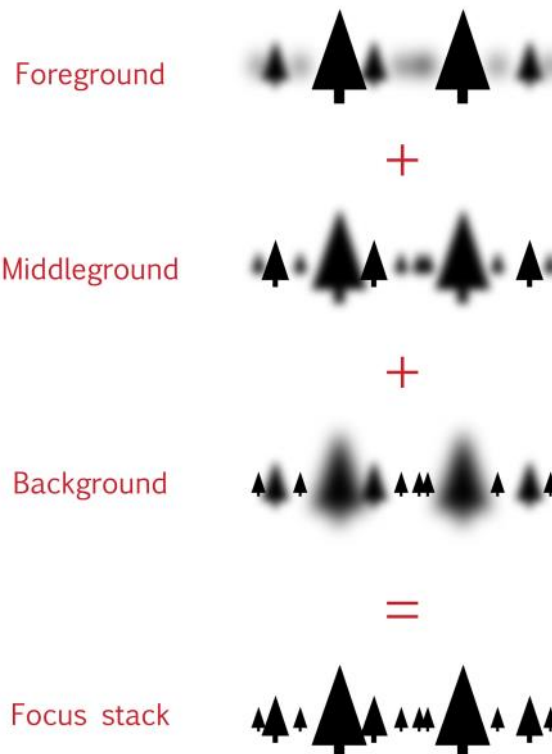
- find a suitable subject
- Macro images can really benefit from this technique, so, a Macro lens would be an added bonus
- Set your camera on a tripod
- Use an aperture of between f4 and f8 being the "sweet spot" of most lenses.
- Take a series of images making micro adjustments to your focus
- It is a good idea to use either a remote shutter release or activate the self timer to reduce camera shake
- If you can use "MUP" - mirror up
- You cannot take enough images is a rule I see a lot of on the sites I looked at.
- Subject matter is important—ideally it needs to be stationary!
- Once you have all your images you then load them into your Software like Photoshop., push a button and whammo, you have a perfectly sharp image!!!!

There is not enough space in this publication to go through the whole process, but these links will help you:

<https://photographylife.com/how-to-focus-stack-images>

<https://digital-photography-school.com/a-beginners-guide-to-focus-stacking>

<https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/what-is-focus-stacking-in-photography>



[Focus stacking - Wikipedia](#)

Focus stacking (also known as **focal plane merging** and **z-stacking**^[1] or **focus blending**) is a [digital image processing](#) technique which combines multiple images taken at different [focus](#) distances to give a resulting image with a greater [depth of field](#) (DOF) than any of the individual source images.^{[2][3]} Focus stacking can be used in any situation where individual images have a very shallow depth of field; [macro photography](#) and [optical microscopy](#) are two typical examples. Focus stacking can also be useful in [landscape photography](#).



Series of images demonstrating a six-image [focus bracket](#) of a [Tachinid fly](#). First two images illustrate typical [DOF](#) of a single image at f/10 while the third image is the composite of six images.



BI-MONTHLY INTERCLUB PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE aka **'THE CAPE TO NEARLY CAIRO CHALLENGE'**

MPS / BFK / PFK / EPC

OCTOBER 21st, SET SUBJECT - 'BOTTLES'
In Colour or Monochrome. Manipulation allowed.

If you would like to join in with us, Bosveld Fotografie Klub (BFK), Pietersburg Fotografie Klub (PFK) and Eden Photography Club from Mossel Bay

- and you haven't entered previously, then please contact Nige on
- email westwood@zol.co.zw or call 0772 309 841.

We'd be delighted if you could join us. Your interest does not commit you to entering each and every bi-monthly Photography Challenge throughout the year, but do send in entries as often as you'd like and help us to fly our Zimbabwean flag high!



THIS IS HOW IT WORKS:

1. A maximum of two photos permitted by each entrant. (This is automatically limited by the entry process via Photo Vault Online).
2. Entry Size: Either the Horizontal or Vertical dimension should be maximum 1920 pixels x 1080 pixels resulting with an image size of maximum 2MB.
3. Entries on Photo Vault for all Interclub Challenges close off on the **third Friday** of the competition month at midnight - unless falling on a public holiday. Late entries or incorrect sizes will be automatically rejected.
4. Set Subjects are nominated by Francois Roux (National Director - Finance & Company Secretary PSSA) and judged by PSSA members nominated by Francois. Judging will be to Salon standards out of **15**. In the case of more than one judge the average, rounded to a whole number, will be used.
5. The winning entry will be the highest score and in case of equal highest scores the judges will decide the overall winner. The results will be emailed to MPS, BFK and PFK at which time the next Set Subject will be announced - giving members over a month to prepare their next entries.
6. The list of entries will be split by Club and the Total Scores of all the entries for each Club will decide the Winning Club. In case of the number of entries not being equal the lowest scores from the Clubs with the most entries will fall away in order to balance the number of entries.
7. We are therefore competing for: (a) the winning image and (b) the Club with highest Total of Scores.



As we are sharing the monthly viewings of the Top 5 entries in Set Subjects with BFK in South Africa we are following their lead with regard to their Image size requirements of a maximum 2MB for Set Subjects entries.

Minimum entry size for our MPS competitions are highly recommended at 1MB. This allows you to take advantage of the better quality for both the judges and the screen projection at our competition evenings.

PSSA DEFINITIONS



MANIPULATION

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- ☐ Adding an element to the image that was not contained in the original capture;
- ☐ Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original capture;
- ☐ Moving or repositioning an element of the image that was contained in original capture.

In categories Nature and Photojournalism, manipulation is not allowed.

In 'Open' there is no restriction whatsoever in the way Author's choose to post process an image.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE ALLOWED AND ARE NOT SEEN AS MANIPULATION:

- ☐ Cropping
- ☐ Correction of lens distortion, chromatic aberrations, purple fringing, lens vignette and vertical/horizontal perspective adjustments;
- ☐ Removal of dust spots or scratch marks from sensor or scanned images;
- ☐ The blending of different exposures of the same scene to broaden the dynamic range e.g. High Dynamic Range (HDR);
- ☐ Photo stacking to overcome the limitations of the digital sensor heat artefacts in long exposures.
- ☐ Focus stacking to widen the depth of field especially in Macro photography.

In the case of Nature and Wildlife, HDR and focus stacking will **not** be considered as manipulation and may be used provided that the end result is a faithful representation of the original scene.

Please Note:

HDR and Focus stacking are not allowed in Photojournalism and Street Photography. Study the rules for each event as they will be unique.

MONOCHROME DEFINITION

MONOCHROME is a black and white image. A black and white work fitting from the very dark grey (black) to the very clear grey (white) is a monochrome work with the various shades of grey. A black and white work toned entirely in a single colour will remain a monochrome work able to stand in the Black and White Category. A black and white work modified by a partial toning or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work (polychrome) to stand in the Colour Category.

IMAGE SIZING FOR COMPETITIONS

Images entered for P.S.S.A. club meetings must conform to their Salon size restrictions which currently are H.D. format size (maximum 1920 pixels on the horizontal plane and maximum 1080 pixels on the vertical plane) with a maximum file size of 2MB. **Neither the horizontal nor the vertical plane must exceed the pixel size.**
Minimum image size of 1MB
Maximum of 2MB



A selection of entries submitted in
'Open' Category & Set Subjects

April to September 2022

